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4-2016

# Watersheds in Life

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### Recommended Citation

Morgan, Molly, "Watersheds in Life" (2016). *Robert Penn Warren Essay Contest*. Paper 2.  
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Molly Morgan

Robert Penn Warren Essay Contest

March 24, 2016

### Watersheds in Life

A watershed is defined as a ridge of land that separates waters flowing to different bodies of water. It can also have a connotative meaning of a turning point in life. At this point in my life I feel surrounded by watersheds. As a senior in high school there are many decisions that are taking me in several different directions I have never been before. This is well described within the deeper meaning in the poem by Robert Penn Warren "Watershed."

There are devices such as imagery and metaphor used all throughout to make it a remarkable poem. There are examples of imagery that allow the listeners to be able to visualize, hear, and even feel what is happening and develop a deeper meaning for what they are reading. Some examples of imagery from this poem are tactile imagery of the morning mist. It makes it feel as if the listener can feel the mist. There is visual imagery of the hawk's view. The poet makes it feel like the reader can see all the things that the hawk can see. There is also auditory imagery of being able to hear the streams flowing. All of these examples of imagery throughout the poem give the poem a natural and almost calming feeling. It allows the reader to imagine all these things happening around them like they are surrounded by these things or are embodying a certain object or living thing. Imagery takes a good poem and makes it great and allows a reader to be in the poem instead of only reading it.

The imagery of the poem gives listeners a clearer picture and experience of what is literally going on, but the metaphor gives almost every line a deeper meaning. Beginning with the title "Watershed." With this there is imagery created of being on top of a ridge of line between streams and water, which is the watershed. The watershed metaphorically stands for a Godly quality of being able to see everything from above and have a greater understanding that everyone has their own special qualities, yet we are all still the same. This is similar to the streams that split and go their own directions and all streams flow and come from a bigger body of water. The poem then gives the image of a hawk in the sunset seeing all these things from above. The hawk is also acting as a Godly figure here by flying high over everything and being able to see the world from above. The sunset represents the end of the day. In the end friends will come and go just like streams appear and then disappear and people will die just like men take rest under the eaves. In the last stanza it talks about "this place" which is earth. On earth there is nothing that humans can be sure of. Because of this there is nothing that they should take for granted. The poem talks about being able to feel the earth creep. When someone can take the time to think about being on the earth, which is revolving, they are really slowing down to appreciate things. So, just like feeling the earth creep humans should slow down and take in every little moment.

All in all, metaphors like these and descriptive imagery that Robert Penn Warren has used in the poem "Watershed" gives the poem a vivid literal meaning as well as a deep symbolic deeper meaning.